



▶ British Breeding Success



One of the notable horses of the KWPN Stallion Show was PWS Ricky, a son of KWPN horse Typhoon S, out of the Heartbreaker daughter Tiandra. PWS Ricky garnered positive attention for his jumping talent as well as for his breeder, 22-year-old Max Routledge of Surrey, UK. Interestingly, Routledge is not only PWS Ricky's breeder but also Typhoon S's rider, whom he competes internationally in 1.50m-level show jumping as well as his dam Tiandra, that also jumps at this level.

He and his girlfriend Emily Llewellyn, a talented eventer, made the journey to 's-Hertogenbosch with PWS Ricky. "Choosing the KWPN was a very conscious decision. I could present the stallion in my home country, but the KWPN is highly respected; it's the most prestigious studbook in the world. If he can make it here, it says a lot. We hoped that if Ricky performed well here, he would also be good advertising for his sire, who's approved by the AES," explained Routledge, who is also an international polo player.

Max Routledge's home bred PWS Ricky shows lots of athletic ability and jumping quality and is selected for performance testing.



Photo: Dirk Caremans

Routledge and Llewellyn have many goals for their breeding business. According to Llewellyn: "At the moment, we're still with Max's parents. We have 33 stalls, and they're always full. We don't have a lot of land, and we have to lease additional property, so it's not ideal. We buy and sell a few horses so that we can build up something for ourselves. Besides that, we have a few broodmares and the stallion Typhoon, who of course is very important for us. We now have a group of horses that we want to take further in the coming years so

that Max can advance in the sport.” The couple's group of horses naturally includes Typhoon, who competed last year in the four-star show at Salzburg. Next week he will leave for the Sunshine Tour. Other horses in the group are the Sydney son Widny (Sydney out of Ralarnike by Monaco, breeder: G.J.W. Sikes of Venray), another 1.50m-level show jumper; and five-year-old Denver, a Berlin son (out of Voberlina by Indoctro, breeder: H.W. van Lindenberg of Eefde). “He's a very good horse; I have a lot of faith in him,” asserted Routledge.



Max Routledge and Emily Llewellyn showed their stallion themselves.

Photo: Dirk Caremans

Last summer, Routledge gladly availed of the KWPN's advisory service at the British mare inspection, where PWS Ricky was evaluated to see if the trip to Holland would be worthwhile. Based on the positive feedback he received, Routledge decided to bring the stallion to the Netherlands. “This is our first time here, and we're truly amazed by the quality. If you go to a stallion selection in England, there are certainly a few good horses, but here, every horse is wonderful - and they can jump. Apparently, breeders apply strict selection criteria at home. We're also surprised at how open and friendly the Dutch are. They've approached us to say that they think our horse is good, and the people at the KWPN office were most helpful. There was always someone who would translate for us or explain things,” said Routledge with appreciation.

In the end, PWS Ricky was selected for the performance test. “Totally awesome, we're extremely proud!” exclaimed Routledge. “Now we need to figure out where we'll go from here. Up until now, we've done everything from England. In December, we came here for two days, and this time we've been here since Tuesday. We're still not sure how we'll prepare for the path ahead. Tonight we'll go home tonight and sleep on it. We're also thinking about offering Typhoon for approval next year. The selection was great, and we really enjoyed the horses and the sport. We think we'll go down this path next year with more stallions!” concluded Routledge optimistically.

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